



Pallets and other solid wood packing materials:
A summary of U.S. entry requirements according to 7 CFR 319.40
(Revised November 21, 1995)

I. Pallets and other solid wood packing materials associated with cargo from countries other than Canada and adjacent border states in Mexico:

- a.) If the pallets or other solid wood packing materials are completely free of bark and are used with non-regulated materials,¹ then the pallets or other solid wood packing materials are subject to inspection. No certification statement, signature, notice of arrival, or permit is necessary.
- b.) If the pallets or other solid wood packing materials are not free of bark, and are used with non-regulated materials, then the pallets or other solid wood packing materials are subject to inspection and require an importer document stating that the pallets or other solid wood packing materials have been heat treated, fumigated, or treated with preservatives. No signature, notice of arrival, or permit is necessary in addition to the certification document.
- c.) Pallets or other solid wood packing materials used with regulated material requiring a specific permit², must meet the importation requirements of the regulated article as stated on the permit.

II. Pallets and other solid wood packing materials originating in (and not transiting outside of) Canada and the adjacent border states of Mexico:

Subject to inspection and verification of the origin of the shipment (not the origin of the associated pallets, dunnage, or crating).

¹ Not regulated under 7 CFR 319.40 are commodities such as manufactured wood articles, machinery, chemicals, or marble.

² Regulated articles under 7 CFR 319.40 are commodities such as logs, lumber, and other unmanufactured wood articles.



III. New or reconditioned pallets imported as cargo from countries other than Canada and the adjacent border states of Mexico:

Requires an import permit prior to importation. Conditions will be specified on the permit.

IV. Used pallets imported as cargo from countries other than Canada and the adjacent border states of Mexico:

Subject to inspection and requires the statement that "the pallets were previously eligible for importation and have not had wood added to them since that use" be present on one of the importer documents. No signature, notice of arrival, or permit is necessary in addition to the statement.

Explanatory Note: This revised edition summarizes the new requirements for solid wood packing materials. The Agency is in the process of eliminating the requirement for the certification statement, "the solid wood packing materials are totally free from bark and apparently free from live plant pests." It will take several months before the change is made in the federal register. Prior to publication of the change, APHIS will not require importers to comply with the written certification statement as listed. However, the regulation for freedom from bark and plant pests will not change and importers must ensure their shipments meet this requirement.

Importers can help communicate the new APHIS requirements to exporters and shippers through ordering procedures, letters of credit, and information to shipping associations.

The rule was promulgated based on the need to protect American agriculture and forestry from exotic plant pests. Several instances of plant pest introductions resulting from dunnage or packing material have occurred in recent years, including the pine shoot beetle, and two other species of bark beetle pests in the Great Lakes region.

We are aware of the differences in quarantine risk from various commodities and locations and inspection levels will be concentrated on the areas of greatest risk.

APHIS will completely enforce the rule pertaining to pallets and solid wood packing material on January 1, 1996. When the regulation is completely enforced civil penalties varying from a letter of warning for a minor first offense to penalties of \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 per count may be assessed. Criminal penalties for serious, flagrant offenders can also be pursued.

For additional information or questions, please call the USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine Port Operations Office at Area Code (301) 734-8295.